

University, I can attest to the pride held by both communities.

Dubbed the “Golfer of the Millennium,” Jack Nicklaus is world renowned for his winning record of 118 professional golf tournaments and an unsurpassed 18 professional major-championship titles. However, it is his accomplishments off the course that I recognize today. In 2005, Jack Nicklaus and his wife Barbara formed the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation, which provides support for activities that advance and enhance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of childhood diseases and disorders. To date, Jack and Barbara have raised over \$15 million in support of pediatric health care programs through their foundation. In addition, as a trustee of The First Tee program, Jack provides positive life values and promotes healthy choices through the game of golf to young people who would normally not have access to the game.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to attend the Legends Luncheon this week, which advances pediatric care through the Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation alliance. As a fellow Ohio State Buckeye, it is truly my honor to recognize such a great role model, Jack Nicklaus.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BRITNEY WOLFORD ON HER
OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO AT-
TEND THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Brittney Wolford of Woodville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Brittney’s offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2016. Attending one of our Nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Brittney brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending Woodmore High School in Elmore, Ohio, Brittney was a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Teen Advisory Group. Brittney was also president of Woodmore’s chapter of the National Honor Society her senior year.

Throughout high school, Brittney was a member of her school’s soccer and basketball teams; earned varsity letters in both sports, as well as being nominated team captain in both sports her junior and senior years. In addition, Brittney volunteered her time to her community and brought pride to her country by singing the national anthem at sporting and local veteran events. I am confident that Brittney will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brittney Wolford on the offer of her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Brittney will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.

PROTECTING AMERICAN BABIES
FROM THE SCOURGE OF THE RE-
PUBLICAN PLUTOCRACY

HON. SHELIA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening because this House Majority seeks to play Freddy Krueger with our social safety net, attacking the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, or food stamps, and ripping families to shreds, under the guise of budget cutting.

This program is our most important anti-hunger program, with over 46 million Americans in more than 21 million households relying on it to help feed themselves and their families.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP is the cornerstone of the Nation’s nutrition assistance safety net. SNAP touches the lives of over one in seven Americans. Indeed you could say that SNAP saves lives.

Everyone’s life is not as simple as some on the other side would have us believe—every person who is homeless cannot be fixed with magic dust and self-help policy prescriptions. Life is complicated and fraught with danger and uncertainty.

Lucky are many of us who go home to warm shelter, food, and family. There, but for the grace of God go I.

SNAP benefits are available to most people who meet the financial requirements, and the program serves a broad spectrum of low income people. In Fiscal Year 2010, SNAP provided about \$5.4 billion dollars in food benefits to a monthly average of over 3.6 million people in Texas.

The program served 55 percent of those eligible for benefits in Texas in 2008. SNAP also has an economic multiplier effect with every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generating as much as \$9 in total economic activity.

It is a proven fact Mr. Speaker that people who receive SNAP benefits put them to almost immediate use. SNAP beneficiaries are not converting their benefits into convertible bonds or stock options. They spend and help the economy along the way.

The Ryan Republican Budget would force SNAP into an inadequate State-by-State block program. Such a breakdown would make SNAP static and unable to react to a changing economy. This is not an example of a sensible ordering of the fiscal priorities.

When times are tough, SNAP expands to bring assistance where needed. And as the economy improves, SNAP shrinks in size as families are better able to provide for themselves. A static program would not be able to react to such economic changes and Americans would suffer.

The Republican Budget also is asking for SNAP recipients’ aid to be ‘contingent on work or job training.’ SNAP does help many people who are unemployed or underemployed to make ends meet. Let’s not make our fiscal and economic policies punitive towards the people who need us most.

But it also helps families with children, the elderly and the disabled. SNAP was created to respond to the economic climate and help the most vulnerable among us, including but not limited to those that have lost their job, avoid hunger.

In my district, the Texas 18th, more than 190,000 people live below the poverty line. Additionally, a study conducted in August 2011 by the Food Research and Action Center ranked the 18th Congressional District as having the 33rd highest rate of food hardship in households with children.

According to the Texas Food Bank Network and Baylor University’s Texas Hunger Initiative, 700,000 families in Harris County, Texas struggle to provide enough food for their families.

In 2010, there were 46.2 million Americans living in poverty nationwide. According to the 2010 Federal poverty threshold, determined by the U.S. Census, a family of four is considered impoverished if they are living on less than \$22,314 per year.

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty, 2.2 million of them children, and that 17.4 percent of households in the State struggle with food insecurity.

I am committed to preserving essential programs aimed at combating poverty, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, that fed 3.9 million residents of Texas in April 2011, or the Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, Program that provides nutritious food to more than 990,000 mothers and children in my home State.

SNAP kept more than 5 million people out of poverty in 2010 in addition to helping feed millions more who were already below the poverty line. About three-quarters of the families aided by the program have children. More than a quarter of the families include seniors or people with disabilities.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, provides benefits to low-income, eligible households on an electronic benefit transfer, EBT, card; benefits can then be exchanged for foods at authorized retailers. SNAP reaches a large share of low-income households. In November 2011, there were 46 million persons in 22 million households benefiting from SNAP.

Federal SNAP law provides two basic pathways for financial eligibility to the program:

(1) meeting federal eligibility requirements, or (2) being automatically or “categorically” eligible for SNAP based on being eligible for or receiving benefits from other specified low-income assistance programs. Categorical eligibility eliminated the requirement that households who already met financial eligibility rules in one specified low-income program go through another financial eligibility determination in SNAP.

In its traditional form, categorical eligibility conveys SNAP eligibility through the receipt of cash assistance from Supplemental Security Income, SSI, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, block grant, or State-run General Assistance, GA, programs.